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The President The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As chair of the Federal Transportation Advisory Group, it is my pleasure to forward a document entitled, "Vision 2050: An Integrated National Transportation System." We would welcome the opportunity to brief you and the new Secretary of Transportation on this vision document, formed over the course of several months by a group of individuals involved in, and concerned about issues in transportation.

Transportation is critical to our nation's economy and our quality of life, and the United States has long enjoyed one of the best and most efficient transportation systems in the world. But today, we are straining its capacity limits, producing delays and congestion, reducing productivity. Fatalities and injuries are unacceptably high, devastating lives. This system also forces our dependence on foreign petroleum and pollutes our environment.

The nation has not had a bold vision for transportation in 45 years, since President Eisenhower signed into law the Federal-Aid Highway Act on June 29, 1956. That law created the interstate highway system and transformed America into a mobile society.

We request your leadership in establishing a new vision for transportation in the 21st Century. The nation's economic strength and our quality of life depends on it. We request that you make transportation one of your top priorities.

We recognize that the improvements the American people deserve and expect cannot be achieved without the direct interest and involvement of all transportation stakeholders. To generate discussion on this important topic we are taking the liberty of also sending our document to leaders in government, industry, labor, non-governmental organizations, and academia. It will also be available on the Internet at http://scitech.dot.gov to ensure broad public access.

As a first step, we recommend that you form a bipartisan commission to help define a national transportation strategy that takes the bold steps necessary to achieve the vision for an integrated national transportation system.

If you have any questions or would like a briefing, please contact me at (206) 655-5001 or Dr. Fenton Carey, our Executive Director, at (650) 604-5697.

Sincerely yours,

Robert E. Spitzer

Chair, Federal Transportation Advisory Group

Enclosure

cc:

Vice President

White House Chief of Staff

Executive Office of the President

The President's Cabinet

Members of the House of Representatives

Members of the Senate

State Governors